



Miracles Happen

by Sarah A. Cart

Here is a good news/bad news/good news story.

This season's All Charities Weekend (ACW) was one of the most successful events ever. Huge congratulations are

due to co-chairs **Cindy and Tim Brammer** and **Mary Ann Larkin**.

As All Charities Chairman **Michael Berman** points out, there's an old adage that translates, "Man plans; God laughs." Despite our most careful planning, the Road of Life is unpredictable. And in the weeks since that fabulous weekend, COVID-19 has become a global health crisis.

Auctioned dinners, get-togethers, trips and events have been cancelled and postponed, with a possible fallout/financial exposure of \$1.8 million.

Thankfully, the Ocean Reef Community Foundation's All Charities Executive Committee, which was prepared to distribute a record amount, is able to execute contingency plans that were laid out

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All Charities

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ages ago to address myriad unforeseen circumstances. And fortunately, most of the funds set aside for that purpose have remained intact.

Thus, miracles will happen.

Good news: The Executive Committee has guaranteed that All Charities' recipient partners on The Reef will receive, at a minimum, and with two exceptions, the same amount they received last season. Additionally, those monies held back at this time that remain available will be distributed once a clearer picture of the situation emerges.

The exceptions are the Medical Center and the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, both of which will receive fully funded distributions immediately. Those monies

will assist their efforts both in dealing with this global health crisis here on The Reef and with the havoc it is wreaking on the economies of our neighboring communities.

Such a positive outcome would not be possible without the heartfelt generosity of the Ocean Reef Membership and All Charities' talented, agile and innovative leadership. As various dinners and events have had to be postponed or cancelled, those who held winning auction bids were notified and presented with various options, including refunds; an overwhelming majority responded supportively, saying they look forward to the rescheduled event(s) or where that's not possible, telling All Charities to keep the monies as a donation because they understand All Charities continues to need their support.

More good news: For those who won tickets for the Don Felder (formerly of The Eagles)

concert, the event has been rescheduled for Jan. 13, 2021.

Berman notes that, as postponed events are rescheduled into next season, that will likely impact All Charities Weekend 2021, and expectations will be adjusted as necessary. Additionally, future allocations may need to be rethought and adjusted so that the most funding can be provided where it is most needed. All that said, he marvels at how past experience teaches that Ocean Reef opens its heart and responds to these emergencies with overwhelming support.

The following was approved by the Executive Committee this past weekend:

The Medical Center will receive \$1,390,949;
The Ocean Reef Community Foundation, \$1,364,704;
The Cultural Center, \$953,513;
The Academy, \$619,784;
The Art League, \$309,892;

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The Conservation Association, \$309,892; and ORCAT, \$71,514.

Additionally, the Cultural Center, Art League, Academy, Conservation Association and ORCAT will all receive their holdback once those monies are cleared.

Berman points out that moving forward, this means, thanks to grants from the Foundation, scholarships from the Conservation Association, support for the Helipad at Baptist Hospital and dollars earmarked for special projects, there is the possibility of providing support of almost \$3 million to the people and institutions in Key Largo, Florida City, and Homestead.

While this is a time of significant concern for us and our friends and neighbors, All Charities helps us remember all the good around us in this community that helps make miracles happen.